



The Sick Man of Africa:

Admission and Treatments

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Abstract

Africa is not sick but only abhor a sick man whose admission and treatments this paper wishes to earnestly discuss. By the sick man of Africa as we would like to know, is a country that has been failing in its responsibilities to help Africa develop and has also contributed to Africa stagnancy and deplorable situation; a country that has all the capacity and ability in itself but have been blind to the actualization of these bustles. The country which as at the age is fifty-five still crawling and babbling around the international community and have been a joker card in the hand of naiveté leaders who have reconstructed its history to suit their betterments and have surnamed it with their family tiers. Nigeria, a country flowing with milk and honey would occupy an interrogative position in this work, locating its contemporary challenges and providing solutions to them. The paper, while adopting the Admission-Treatment approach, would suggest to its stakeholders how to vacate the mendicant stage, build its capacity, and thus becoming the doctor of Africa diseases.

Keywords: Responsibilities, International, Nigeria, Contemporary, Capacity

Introduction

Africa is dyeing, Nigeria is dyeing too, and then who will plan the burial of one or the other. Those who saw Africa as a sick continent has failed to further diagnose the kind of illness she has and how these diseases penetrated her land, perhaps if the symptoms are understandable, preventive measures should be submittable and effective. On their part, providing solutions seems more important and admitting her for a proper and elaborate diagnosis, its treatments seem collective and not particular as it is ethical and wise. Although, this is not medical history, I have chosen to write in medical terms different from what any writer can forecast since most texts and papers on Nigeria problems has been presented in different form, yet without change. I believe, if Admission-Treatment approach is used to 'naked her to herself, it will make more meaning to her'.

As interesting as her story seems and her name sound Nigeria has remain a palace of confusion to most king-writers. She is the most populous black race, multi-ethnic

groups, multi-cultural, and multi-religious nation; she is endowed with lots of enviable human and natural resources. In spite of all these life changing resources that abound on her soil, counter clockwise is the bedrock of her growth in virtually all facets of life, a writer noted.¹ Langston Hughes has once summited this fact in Storm on The Niger by Mokuwugo Okoye that:

"It is not an irony of history that Nigeria in whose search many a brave adventurer had perished and whose mysteries had bemused Europe from time of Homer onwards, should today lapse into comparative obscurity in the comity of nations"

John Gunther, a famous American author and traveller in 1953 exclaimed that *Nigeria is by far the largest and wealthiest of the former British Africa dominions, the most exciting country I have ever seen in my life, extravagantly colossal and turbulent and its politics are incandescent*". There are several others who have said or written many captivating thing about Nigeria.

Backdrop of the Study

Nigeria whose beginning only God knows, is presently in a pitiable or more pitiable situation. The Nigeria Fact Sheet of United States Embassy in Nigeria provided this detail about her- Nigeria gained full independence in October 1960, as a federation of three regions (northern, western, and eastern) under a constitution that provided for a parliamentary form of government. Under the constitution, each of the three regions retained a substantial measure of self-government. The federal government was given exclusive powers in defense and security, foreign relations, and commercial and fiscal policies. In October 1963, Nigeria altered its relationship with the United Kingdom by proclaiming itself a federal republic and promulgating a new constitution. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and accounts for over half of West Africa's population. It borders the Gulf of Guinea, and is located between Benin and Cameroon. Its capital city is located at Abuja (pop. est. 1.6 million), its natural resources include: petroleum, natural gas, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land, its natural hazards are periodic droughts; flooding, its population, 168 million, Nigeria has 250 ethnic groups. The most populous and politically influential among these are Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%. its languages: English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, and over 500 additional indigenous languages. The dominant ethnic group in the northern two-thirds of the country is the Hausa-Fulani, most of whom are Muslim. Other major ethnic groups of the north are the Nupe, Tiv, and Kanuri. The Yoruba people are predominant

in the southwest. The Igbo (Ibo) are predominant in the southeast. In the area of religion, the population is roughly balanced between Muslims and Christians with a small minority of those who practice indigenous beliefs. However, the paper has not targeted the history of Nigeria, but as to refresh our understanding about the country under serious consideration, this is crucial and will serve as a guild toward this submission.

The Sick Man of Africa

It sounds more gloomy and depraved than interesting. The sick man of Africa is not novel in writing just as the sick man of Europe is famous among intellectuals. The term has been use to mean different things. For example Cees Bruggemans discusses history and geopolitics in one of his articles for BizNews, he asserts that it is just an old phrase ("Sick man of Europe") that perhaps hasn't been looked at closely enough for its possible modern parallel ("Sick man of Africa"). This is partly true about the different write-ups submitted online. One of them which is not guilty of this was the article summited by Obeya Francis K. 'Any way one looks at it, the appropriate pseudonym to describe Nigeria is "the sick man of Africa', he noted. This term is claimed to have orchestrated from the phrase 'Sick man of Europe' which was used to describe the tumultuous acts of Ottoman kingdom in Europe toward the end of the nineteenth century, this is true. Against this view is the fact that, the term is use here to assess the denigration story of Ottoman rule and its failure to use its position to bring prosperity to Europe rather, catastrophe. However, we are not concerned with its catastrophe character. Nigeria fits into this scene too. It is sad to know that this country was once touted as the "giant of Africa", but has remains stunted in growth and lost its position which might made one to call it not only the sick man of Africa has we have posited, but the pig of Africa. The term is not however to devastate it, but to be able to adopt the admission-treatments approach to the problems responsible for this.

Current Issues on the Problems of Nigeria

Writers and even readers have lost hope of writing or reading any other text or article on Nigeria problems and perhaps solution to Nigeria problems. This is not only because most of these texts or articles are problematic themselves (voluminous, inconsistence, imprecise, undefined and dreamlike solutions) they are common and most of them failed to supply helpable solution or most of their solutions are not adoptable to solving these conglomeration of problems. I must be deliberate therefore to avoid falling into the same pit. Topics and beautiful themes that have occupied most journals include: *Is Nigeria's Unemployment Problem Unsolvabale?* By M.A. Adawo, E.B. Essien and N.U. Ekpo

published in Current Research Journal of Social Sciences in November 25, 2012, *The Challenges of Entrepreneurship Development in Nigeria and Way Forward* by BABA, G.K in Journal of Business and Organizational Development Volume 5, Number 1, 2013, *Federalism: Problems And Prospects Of Power Distribution In Nigeria* by Sunday Okungbowa Uhunmwuango and Barr. C.E. Ekpui in Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (Volume 13, No.5, 2011), *Current Problems Of Educational Development In Nigeria* By Professor A. A. Adeyinka, *Election Rigging And The Problems Of Electoral Act In Nigeria* by Ayo Awopeju in Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences Volume 2, No. 2.4 Quarter IV 2011, *12 Major Problems Of Food & Agriculture In Nigeria* By Sadiq Chuks Orji, *The 469 Problems Of Nigeria* by Etcetera Writes, *Issues In And Future Of Urban Transportation And Traffic Management System In Nigeria* by DR. S.I. ONI at the Sixth International Conference On Competition And Ownership In Land Passenger Transport, *Addressing the Insecurity Challenge in Nigeria: The Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics* by Onifade Comfort, Imhonopi David & Urim Ugochukwu Moses in Global Journal of Human Social Science Political Science Volume 13 Issue 2 Version 1.0 Year 2013, *The Current And Future Challenges Of Electricity Market In Nigeria In The Face Of Deregulation Process* by Titus Koledoye Olugbenga, Abdul-Ganiyu A. Jumah and Phillips D. A. in African Journal of Engineering Research Vol. 1(2), pp. 33-39, March 2013 Review, among several interesting of others. Although these issues are true about Nigeria and most of their recommendations are valuable, it has not totally solved these problems.

Admission of Nigeria

One thing the foregoing will whisper to us here as we admit Nigeria as a awkward patient is that Nigeria is self-problematic whether before or after independence. These problems are numerous and cannot contain this paper and hence mandated the selection of crucial ones. They include: Problems Of Power Distribution, Educational Problems, Insecurity, Problems of Leadership, Corruption, Problems of Electoral Act and Processes, Endemics, Abject Poverty, Illiteracy, Tribalism, Industrial Crisis and Unemployment, and Environmental Problems. These problems must be admitted before its diagnoses which give us information about its source and hence giving us clue on their solutions.

How does this nation contract these diseases is not farfetched. The composition of the nation which was misinterpreted at the very beginning of the revolution that took place in her history in the 1700s an 1800s brought about this problem. Sincerely, the name naigeria was never real. I think I must we must be careful not misinterpret this prphrase.

Treatments of Nigeria Disease

I shall prescribe two broad solutions to Nigeria problems as we have seen above, these are Nigeria Solution to Nigeria Problems and External Solution to Nigeria Problems. Both are based on historical, sociological and nationalistic sources.

***TO READ THE Treatments of Nigeria Disease and CONCLUSION I
NEED YOUR VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FIRST THEN I
CAN UPLOAD IT. THANKS***

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